

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11-18 and 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 14 and 21 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Non-Final Office Action, claims 1-5, 7 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto; claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto and Mashino et al.; and claims 11-18 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga et al. in view of Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and recites that "at least one of an entire edge portion of the diffusing sheet adjacent to the lamp, an entire edge portion of the protecting sheet adjacent to the lamp, or an entire edge portion of the reflector includes a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent such that light reflected from a bottom surface of the display device that causes constructive interference with light emitting from the lamp is scattered thereby preventing a bright line on the display device and the printing portion is formed as a single body." Independent claims 3 and 21 include similar features in a varying scope.

Neither Nagakubo et al. nor Matsumoto teach or suggest these features. For example, as

shown in FIG. 3 of Nagakubo et al., the light quantity control portion 4a does not completely cover an entire edge portion, but rather is a plurality of spaced apart circles. In addition, Matsumoto fails to cure the deficiencies of Nagakubo et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 3 and 21 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over the combination of Nagakubo et al. and Matsumoto.

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto and Mashino et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted this rejection has also been overcome as claims 6 and 8 are dependent claims and Mashino et al. also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

Claims 11-18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga et al. in view of Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 11 and 12 include similar features as that discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 3 and 21. As discussed above, Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al. do not teach or suggest these features. Suga et al. also does not teach or suggest these features. For example, as shown in FIG. 6B of Suga et al., the diffusion-reflective pattern does not completely cover an entire edge portion, but rather is a plurality of spaced apart circles. In addition, Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Nagakubo et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 11, 12 and 21 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over the combination of Suga et al., Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al.

Conclusion

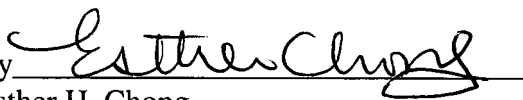
The Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot, obviated or overcome. No issues remain. It is believed that a complete response has been made to the Office Action. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to allow the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Reg. No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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